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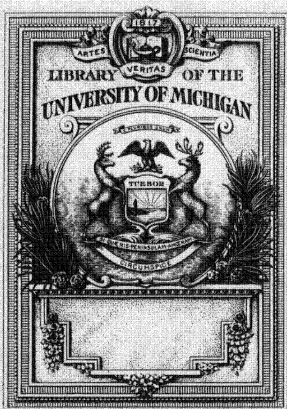
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HAWAII HISTORICAL COMMISSION - PUBLICATIONS 1 1923-29



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Publications of the Historical Commission of the Territory of Hawaii
Volume I, Number 1

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REPORT
OF
The Historical Commission
OF THE
Territory of Hawaii
for the period ending
December 31, 1922



Printed by
Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Ltd.
Merchant Street
1923

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MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HON. GEORGE R. CARTER, President.

MRS. A. P. TAYLOR, Vice-President.

DR. K. C. LEEBRICK, Secretary-Treasurer.

R. S. KUYKENDALL, Executive Secretary.

The office of the Commission is at the
University of Hawaii,
Honolulu, T. H.



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Honolulu, Hawaii,

January 25, 1923.

To His Excellency Governor W. R. Farrington
and to the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii:

The Historical Commission presents herewith a report of its work covering the period from the formation of the Commission to the end of December, 1922. We desire to call particular attention to the statements and recommendations to be found on pages 9, 15, and 17.

Respectfully submitted,

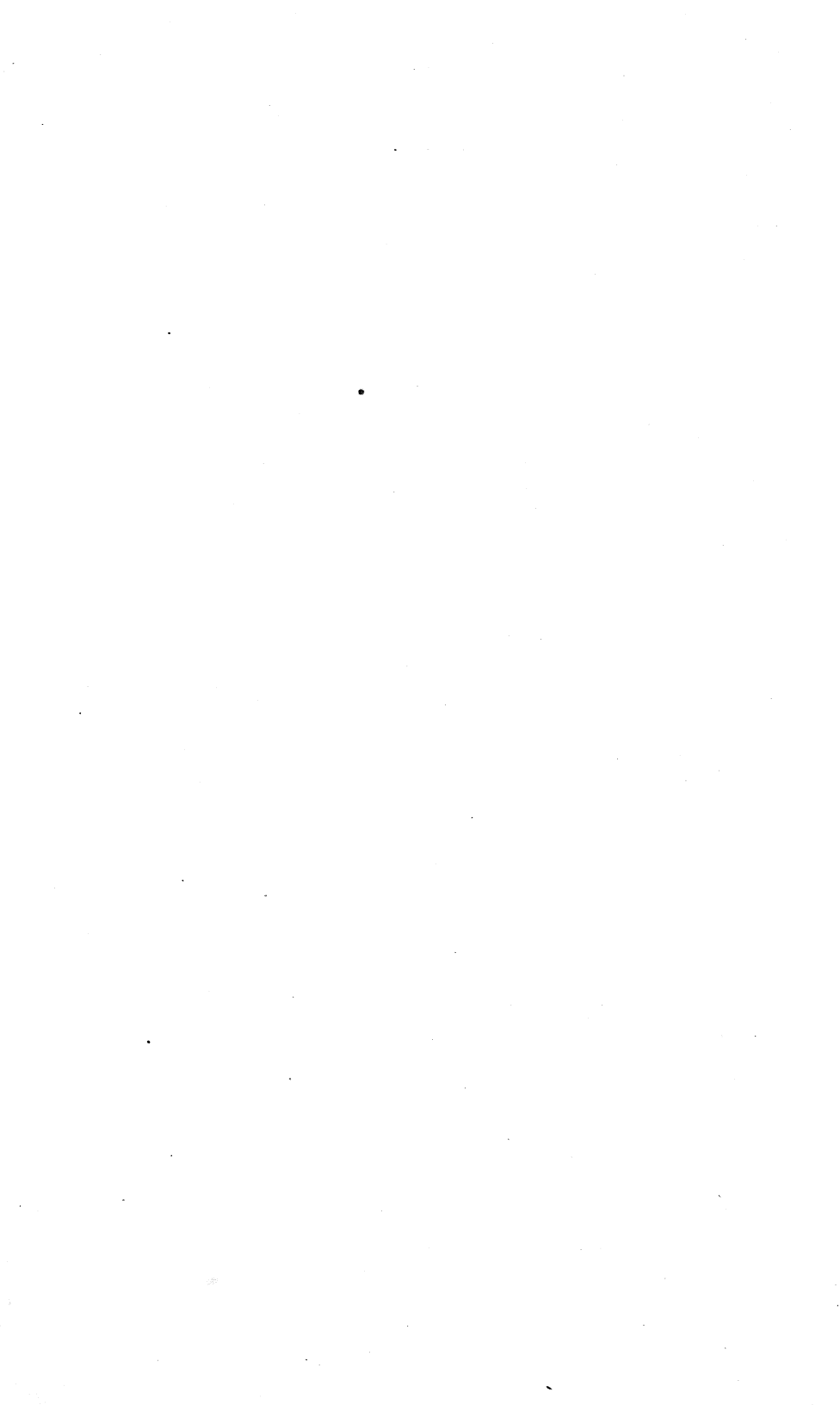
THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION,

GEORGE R. CARTER, President,

MRS. A. P. TAYLOR, Vice-President and
Acting President,

K. C. LEEBRICK, Secretary-Treasurer,

R. S. KUYKENDALL, Executive Secretary.



REPORT OF
THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

For the Period Ending
December 31, 1922.

Creation of Historical Commission

The Historical Commission was created by Act 120, S. L. 1921, approved by Governor C. J. McCarthy April 18, 1921. This law reads as follows:

Section 1. Number, appointment, of commissioners. There is hereby created a commission of three members to be appointed by the Governor of the Territory, which shall be called "The Historical Commission," to secure the compilation and publication of a revised history of the Hawaiian people, and to perform such other duties as are hereinafter set forth; provided, however, that said revised history shall not be published until after the same has been approved by either the legislature of the territory or by the trustees of the Hawaiian Historical Society. One member of said commission shall be appointed from the faculty of the University of Hawaii. Such members shall serve without pay, but receive such reasonable traveling and other expenses as may be incurred in the discharge of their duties as members of this commission. Such commission is hereby authorized and directed to secure the compilation from all available sources, and to publish a revised history of the Hawaiian people. The commission is hereby authorized to employ such competent persons as are necessary for the compilation of the said history, and to purchase the necessary documents, records and material for use in the compilation of such history.

Section 2. Said commission shall investigate and compile information upon places, structures, monuments and things in the Territory of Hawaii of historical importance and interest, and report back to the next legislature the advisability of preservation and restoration of such historic places, together with an estimate of the cost of so doing.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of said commission to secure and collect the necessary information, documents and pictures for the purposes of publication of a record of Hawaii's part in the great war between the United States, its allies and the Central European powers.

Section 4. All documents, records and materials secured by said commission shall be deposited in the territorial archives after their use by the commission.

Section 5. The sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury of the Territory of Hawaii received from the general revenues thereof and not otherwise appropriated to defray the expenses of said commission.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Organization

By virtue of this law Governor W. R. Farrington in 1921 appointed as members of the Commission Hon. Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole, Hon. George R. Carter, and Dr. K. C. Leebrick.

The first meeting, for purposes of organization and formation of preliminary plans, was held September 29, 1921, at which time Prince Kuhio was chosen as president, Mr. Carter as vice-president, and Dr. Leebrick as secretary-treasurer.

After the death of Prince Kuhio, Mrs. A. P. Taylor was appointed by Governor Farrington to fill the vacancy resulting therefrom, and at the first meeting thereafter the Commission was reorganized, as follows:

President, Hon. George R. Carter;

Vice-president, Mrs. A. P. Taylor;

Secretary-treasurer, Dr. K. C. Leebrick.

Appointment of Executive Secretary

At the first meeting, September 29, it was unanimously voted to attempt to secure the appointment of some trained historian to direct the work of the Commission, since it was clearly not the duty nor within the temporal ability of the members to personally carry on this work. It was further voted to offer a salary of \$3,000 a year for this position, with an additional \$500 for one time toward defraying the traveling expenses to Hawaii of the person appointed to the position.

The distance from the mainland and other difficulties encountered resulted in a considerable delay in the selection of an executive secretary. Finally, in the month of April, 1922, the position was offered to Mr. Ralph S. Kuykendall, who was at that time in Spain on a traveling fellowship from the University of California, engaged in the investigation of Spanish voyages on the Pacific coast. Mr. Kuykendall accepted the position and as soon as possible set out upon the long journey to Hawaii, arriving in Honolulu June 19, 1922.

Preliminary Plans

At the first meeting of the Commission, September 29, 1921, the members discussed at length the work to be done, in the light of the movement that brought about the passage of Act 120. It was pointed out that three definite tasks are set for accomplishment by the Commission: (1) The revision or compilation of an elementary history of Hawaii for use in the public schools, this

being the interpretation which the members placed upon the first and fourth sentences of the first section of the law; (2) The collection and preservation of materials and information which will make possible the compilation of a history of Hawaii's part in the Great War; (3) The investigation of places and objects of historical importance and interest and the preparation of a report to the legislature upon the proper course to follow in reference to such places and objects.

As a result of the death of Prince Kuhio and the delay in securing an executive secretary, the active prosecution of work along these various lines was held in abeyance until the end of June of the year just ended. The present report therefore covers the active work of a period of only six months.

At the first meeting after the arrival of Mr. Kuykendall it was agreed that the first task should be that of preparing the book on the history of Hawaii mentioned in the Act, and that when this had been gotten under way, the other parts of the program should be taken up in the order named, the members of the Commission to give at all times to all parts of the work such thought and attention as their personal affairs would permit.

Preparation of Revised School History

It is the intention of the Commission to prepare a textbook on the history of the Hawaiian Islands which will compare favorably with the best books of this class published in other states of the Union, one which will combine accuracy in statement of particular facts with a correct general view of the historical development of the territory, and which will present the subject matter in a clear and interesting style, sufficiently simple in language and structure to be adapted for use in the upper grades of the elementary schools. There is no intention, however, to write the book in words of one syllable or to make it so simple that it may not be read with interest and profit by the general public. Each chapter will be made to center about some person, some event, or some clearly defined line of development, other things being made subordinate to the central idea, in order that the attention of the reader may be fixed upon the outstanding characters, the decisive events, and the controlling movements in our history.

On June 29, 1922, the Commission adopted as a working model, so far as general form and make-up are concerned, a book written by Professors Beard and Bagley, entitled *A First Book in American History*, published by the Macmillan Company. This is a book of about 450 pages, in the preparation of which the subject matter has been treated, so far as possible, in a topical way.

and in which much attention has been given to the matter of illustrations.

At a subsequent meeting the Executive Secretary made a number of suggestions regarding the school history, which may be summarized as follows:

"In general it would seem desirable to lay more stress upon Hawaii's contacts with the outside world. Most writers so far have written from the point of view of the missionaries, or of the Hawaiians, or of traders, or of foreign governments. We should try to write from the point of view of everything that has been involved. Hawaii's interests are now wider than they were fifty or even twenty-five years ago. Hawaii is now a part of the United States and that fact affects the question of method of treatment. Furthermore, social and economic questions deserve more stress than has been given in general accounts heretofore. If this plan is followed, many controversial points will lose much of their apparent importance.

"It has seemed to me that in a book of the kind desired, of about four hundred pages, one-fourth should be given to the traditional and legendary period prior to the discovery by Cook and one-fourth to the period since the revolution of 1893, leaving one-half for the history of the Hawaiian kingdom established by Kamehameha."

This suggestion regarding the distribution of space in the book was adopted as a preliminary basis, and it was thought best, if necessary, to add a few pages to the book rather than to cut down the space allotted to any one period.

As the result of negotiations carried on by the Executive Secretary, the Commission has secured the services of Dr. Herbert E. Gregory, Director of the Bishop Museum, for the writing of the first part of the book, dealing with the period down to the discovery of the islands by Captain James Cook. The scope of this part of the work can be indicated briefly by an extract from a letter written by Mr. Kuykendall to Dr. Gregory.

"In a book of this size and scope it would seem that about one-quarter of the space (say from 15,000 to 20,000 words) may properly be devoted to the preliminary, pre-historical, and legendary aspects, and that the subject matter covered would be roughly the following: the geographical environment, origin of the islands, their location, physical character, products, etc., and the effects of these things upon the people and their history; the origin of the Polynesian race, peopling of these islands, their relations with other lands, and their legendary history up to the time of Cook and Kamehameha I; a description of the people and their culture.

The object would be to show what the Hawaiian people were like at the moment of their first contact with white men, and why and how they come to be such as they were."

When the matter was first presented to him, Dr. Gregory hesitated to undertake the work, due to his already heavy responsibilities. Finally, however, he consented on condition that the trustees of the museum approved the proposition. This approval was granted by the trustees at a meeting held November 16. The members of the Commission feel that Dr. Gregory's cooperation in the preparation of the new textbook constitutes a very important service on his part and on the part of the Bishop Museum to the people of Hawaii. The result will be a summary in popular form, which is nowhere now available, of the ancient history and civilization of the Hawaiian people, based upon the findings and conclusions from all the work that has been done in this field up to the present time, including the investigations in Hawaii and elsewhere carried on in recent years by various members of the museum staff.

The preparation of the first draft of this book has been begun. It is expected that Dr. Gregory will complete his portion of the work during the spring or early summer. The general plan of the remainder has been worked out and some chapters written. It is hoped to have the book ready for use during the next school year.

It will be noted that the Commission is charged not only with the preparation of this book, but with its publication as well, under certain restrictions stated in the law. We have taken preliminary steps in this direction, by securing from local publishers preliminary, tentative figures on which to base our budget estimates. We have also taken the matter up with several mainland publishers of school textbooks, and it is our intention to secure the publication of the book on the best terms obtainable, consistent with a satisfactory job. We have included in our budget an item of \$11,000 to cover the cost of this publication, but we desire to call attention to the fact that this does not represent a permanent outlay of this amount, but is rather in the nature of an advance. For if it is necessary for the Commission to pay outright the entire cost of publication, the published books will become the property of the Territory and the money will be returned to the treasury through the sale of the book.

Sources of Information

The Commission is not now engaged in the preparation of that comprehensive general history of Hawaii which should some day

be written, but it will nevertheless contribute as far as possible to that ultimate purpose. It would seem that the most important contribution toward that end will be in the securing of documents to fill up the lacunae in the sources of information already available here, and in the preparation of monographic studies of certain phases of our history which have not hitherto been minutely investigated.

A survey of the existing sources of information within the Territory shows that we already possess extremely rich collections of material. Dr. Leebrick, in a paper prepared for the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association in 1920, called the attention of mainland historians to the wealth of unexploited material to be found in these islands. The most valuable body of material is that contained in the Territorial Archives, and this has been made readily accessible by the faithful and skilful labors of the Librarian, Mr. Robert C. Lydecker. It is to be doubted whether the citizens of the Territory fully appreciate the extent and the importance of the work that has been done in the arranging, indexing, and general care of this mass of official material.

Of unofficial collections it is sufficient to mention the fine library collected by former Governor Carter, now the property of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, the libraries of the Hawaiian Historical Society, the Bishop Museum, Punahou School, and the archives of the Hawaiian Board. Others might be mentioned, but enough has been said to show that the serious student of Hawaiian history must do the bulk of his work in the Hawaiian Islands.

Nevertheless there are certain important types of material which are very meagerly represented in the local collections, such as the reports of the naval, diplomatic, and consular officials of foreign governments, and the papers of numerous eastern business houses trading to these islands in the early days. It is along these lines that the Commission intends to work in the gathering of new material, to such extent as its funds and opportunity permit.

A beginning has already been made, and we here mention some of the material which we have already secured or are in process of securing:

(1) A number of fundamental documents dealing with Spanish interests in and relations with these islands during the fur trade era, a topic that has scarcely been mentioned by writers up to this time. Three documents, totaling sixteen pages, have thus far been received. One of these documents shows that

a serious proposal was made by a Spanish naval commander that a Spanish settlement should be made in the Hawaiian Islands. In order to complete this story it will be necessary to get certain additional documents from the archives of the Mexican government. This we expect to do.

(2) An important manuscript of 53 pages dealing chiefly with the operations of the Winship brothers on the Pacific Coast and the Hawaiian Islands in the first two decades of the last century. This document is important for the history of the sandal wood trade.

(3) The official reports to the United States government made by John C. Jones, Jr., the first American commercial agent to be stationed here; one hundred and sixty-eight pages, from the archives of the Department of State at Washington.

(4) One hundred and forty-five pages, from the archives of the Navy Department at Washington, dealing with the early visits of American naval officers to the Hawaiian Islands, Percival, Jones, Finch, and Downes. These shed an interesting light upon local conditions during the second quarter of the last century. They are also important in connection with the sandal wood trade. The greater part deal with the visit of the *Vincennes* in 1829.

Mention should also be made of the fact that Mr. George R. Carter, the President of this Commission, is looking for additional Hawaiiana during the course of his present world tour.

In speaking of the sources of information it is necessary to take account of the important work that has been done by local and other students of Hawaiian history in collecting information and setting it forth in accessible form and in writing upon various subjects of historical interest. Too much cannot be said of the important work done and being done by the staff of the Bishop Museum in the investigation of all phases of the history and civilization of the Polynesian race. We feel that special mention should also be made of the work of Mr. Thomas G. Thrum, embodied in the *Hawaiian Annual*, that monument to a half century of untiring and well directed labor, and of the work of various members of the Hawaiian Historical Society, embodied in some thirty annual reports and in numerous other publications.

All of these have contributed much toward simplifying the task of this Commission, and to them the people of Hawaii owe a debt of gratitude.

Historical Landmarks

The Historical Commission has been given the duty of investigating places and objects of historical interest and importance

posterity the historically significant places and objects to be found on that island, and that this Commission will receive from them all possible assistance in the carrying on of the work which is intrusted to it. It is expected that Mrs. Taylor, Dr. Leebrick and Mr. Kuykendall will visit the island of Hawaii during the early part of February.

(c) Governor Farrington has agreed to have investigated for the Commission the status (as to ownership) of any lands which may seem desirable for park purposes by reason of their historic associations.

Owing to the unavoidable delay in the complete organization of the Commission, to the large number of places and objects to be considered, and other attendant difficulties, the Commission has not yet been able to complete the investigation called for. We therefore respectfully request further time in which to prepare a final report upon the subject.

The members of the Commission are, however, of the opinion that any action looking toward the marking, preservation, and restoration of historical places and objects will be much more effective if it is taken upon the initiative and with the support of the local communities directly concerned. We believe that local organizations on the different islands should serve as clearing houses for information about historical landmarks within the districts which they represent, and that these local organizations should, so far as possible, carry on the work of marking, preservation, and restoration; but that there should be a central advisory body with authority to cooperate with local organizations and individuals, to act independently where local organizations do not exist, and to make recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature. An excellent example of the sort of local interest needed is afforded by what has been done on the island of Kauai.

On that island three organizations—the Board of Supervisors, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Kauai Historical Society—have cooperated in this important work. The Historical Society has placed bronze tablets to mark certain heiaus and the City of Refuge in the Wailua district. The Chamber of Commerce indicated its interest in the matter by instructing its delegate to the recent Civic Convention, Rev. Ralph W. Bayless, to address that body on the subject of the “Preservation of Historic Landmarks.” The Board of Supervisors at their November meeting appropriated \$400 to purchase shares in the Wainiha Hui, in order that the dry and wet caves at Haena may be preserved to the public. At the December meeting of the Board a resolution was passed requesting the Hui to assign to the county as its share of land

the five acres around the mouths of these caves, and this will doubtless be done. All of these organizations have from time to time united in petitions to the Governor requesting the setting aside of land containing objects of historic interest as public parks. In response to these petitions the Governor has set aside Poliahu Park, containing the heiau of Poliahu, said to have been built by the Menehunes, and Wailua Park, containing the heiau of Hikinaakala and the adjacent City of Refuge. Steps have recently been taken to have set aside as a park the land at Holoholoku, on which stand the Birth Stones where all the kings of Kauai were born, and the nearby Sacrificial Stone. In recognition of the work and the enthusiasm of the late Rev. J. M. Lydgate, the Board of Supervisors in January voted to change the name of Wailua Park to The J. M. Lydgate Park.

In conclusion, the members of the Commission are of the opinion, and so recommend:

(1) That the work of marking, preserving, and, to a limited extent, of restoring places and objects of historical interest and importance should be carried on continuously and systematically;

(2) That this work should be done so far as possible by local organizations;

(3) That there should be a central advisory board, such as the Historical Commission, with authority to cooperate with local organizations and individuals, to act independently where local organizations do not exist, and to make recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature;

(4) That further time be granted for the preparation of a comprehensive program;

(5) That for the ensuing biennium the work, aside from the preparation of this comprehensive program, be confined chiefly to the setting aside by governmental action of historical places and objects as parks or monuments;

(6) That, if it is deemed advisable, a small sum of money be made available to cover the cost of such other work as, in the judgment of the Governor, the central advisory board, and the local organizations, needs to be done before the next session of the Legislature.

War History

The Historical Commission has been given the duty of collecting the materials necessary for the compilation of a history of Hawaii's part in the Great War.

Finances

The following financial statement for the biennium 1921-1923 and estimate for the biennium 1923-1925 were presented to Governor Farrington in the early part of December.

Financial Statement for the Biennium 1921-1923

A.	Amount of appropriation	\$15,000.00
B.	Expenditures to Nov. 30, 1922....	\$ 2,201.48
	Executive Secretary...	\$1,375.00
	Moving expenses of	
	Exec. Sec. to Ha-	
	waii	497.83
	Stenographer	233.00
	Supplies	78.55
	Telegrams	9.10
	Typewriter rental	8.00
C.	Estimated expenditures Dec. 1,	
	1922 to June 30, 1923	\$ 3,500.00
	Executive Secretary...	\$1,750.00
	Clerical help	1,100.00
	Supplies and equip-	
	ment	150.00
	Miscellaneous (includ-	
	ing travel, translation,	
	purchase of docu-	
	ments, etc.)	500.00
D.	Total actual and estimated expenditures to June	
	30, 1923	\$ 5,701.48
E.	Estimated balance available July 1, 1923.....	\$ 9,298.52

Estimate for the Biennium 1923-1925

A.	Estimated expenditures	\$21,600.00
	Executive Secretary	\$ 6,000.00
	Clerical help	3,600.00
	Miscellaneous (including travel, purchase of documents, print- ing, etc.)	1,000.00
	*Printing of school history.....	11,000.00
B.	Estimated balance available July 1, 1923.....	\$ 9,298.52
C.	BALANCE TO BE PROVIDED.....	<u>\$12,301.48</u>

*In reference to this item, see the statement on page 9.

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